GEELONG NATURALIST

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC

MUSEUM OF VICTORIA
- 6 OCT 1998

Vol 34 No. 3
ISSN 0726-7363

JULY 1998

GEELONG NATURALIST

July 1998

Vol 34 No 3
ISSN 0726-7363

CONTENTS

Geelong Regional Ramsar Wetlands Project		1
Excursion Notice - Point Lillias		1
"July"		2
Bird Group Report		4
"An Unusual Wasp, Evaniidae, of The OGNR"	Dave King	5
Campout Report - Brisbane Ranges		6
"Sounds of The Bush"	Marilyn Hewish	7
Bird of The Month - Grey Fantail		8
"The Case of The Psychid Moth"	Ade Foster	9
Bio-diversity Notes		10
"Winter Nesting of Barn Owls"	Trevor Pescott	11
Library Notes		12
Excursion Report - The Otways		12
"Declaration of Interdependence"	Dr David Suzuki	14
Observations		15

COMING EVENTS

JULY

7	General Meeting	Ian Endersby	"Dragonflies"
12	Biodiversity Group Excursion	Harrison's tk, Anglesea	
14	Plant Group Meeting		Discussion on plants from last excursion
19	Excursion	Point Lillias & saltworks	Leader: Mark Trengove Donna Wood
22	Bio-diversity Group	Workshop Meeting	"Member's Night"
28	Bird Group Meeting	* Stephen Ambrose	"What we found from the ABC"

AUGUST

4	General Meeting	Members Night	
9	Biodiversity Group Excursion	Teesdale Swamp, Chinaman's Lagoon	
11	Plant Group Meeting		Discussion on plants from last excursion
16	Excursion	Bannockburn Bush Barwon Water Treatment Site.	Leaders: Ray Baverstock Peter Hackett
25	Bird Group Meeting		Trevor Pescott "Lorikeets"
26	Biodiversity Group		Workshop Meeting

* CHANGES TO PROGRAM
\+ ADDITIONS TO PROGRAM

GEELONG REGIONAL RAMSAR WETLANDS PROJECT

. . . Margaret Cameron

The Steering Committee for this project has now met three times. There are representatives from all the various agencies and bodies concerned with wetlands in the area (not just the Ramsar wetlands). The Wetland Project Officer is Liz Horler. There were 150 applicants for the job! Liz comes from Queensland but is rapidly learning about Geelong and its wetlands. This is her major task at present. (In the week after our first meeting she visited all the various wetlands - including Reedy Lake which of course is dry but where we saw a Bittern!). The Ramsar wetlands are the Port Phillip Bay area including the Werribee Western Treatment Plant down to Point Lillias and Limeburners Bay, the Lake Connewarre complex, and the Swan Bay area.

Planned outcomes of the Project include guidelines for city planners and other responsible agencies on the management of the wetlands, interpretive material for the community on their value, a continuing community advisory committee to work with the Council and other agencies to promote and protect wetlands, and mechanisms for monitoring wetland health in our area in future. Wader counts and Water Watch are two examples.

Liz is assembling a lot of information, including publications and reports, management plans, maps, and access to datasets from our own wader counts to the various databanks of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment like the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife.

An important outcome of the Project will be a kit (or kits) of educational material, explaining the value of our wetlands for school students and for landholders and other people responsible for wetland welfare. The Project had a display in the Geelong Environment Expo. Liz is assembling display material for other shows and talks, and interpretive material and illustrations for the kit, and is looking for suitable slides and pictures.

Liz still needs pictures - preferably slides - of Tiny Arrow-grass, the Altona Skipper, Tiger Snake, Water Rat, Duck Hunters, and of dogs chasing or disturbing waders. If you can help with any of these - or if you have wonderful pictures of the Ramsar wetlands which you would like to share - please contact Liz on 5227 0334.

□

Next meeting . .

The August meeting will be a Members Night where Les Barrow will give information on the Moorabool River Streamflow Management Plan and the implications of some of the recommendations that could be made from this group.

A special speaker will also give details on the City of Greater Geelong Environmental Strategy draft document.

□

Club windcheaters.

. . . Valerie Lloyd-Jones

Due to the popularity of the windcheaters, we will place a further order within the next two weeks. They are bottle green with the club name and logo on the left side of the front.

The price is $20 and they are made and printed in Geelong.

If you would care to place an order please ring me before July 15 on 5243 3704..

□

New members . . .

We are pleased to welcome the following new members who joined the club in May.

Mrs Wendy Naylor
Mr Lachlan Sinnott

EXCURSION NOTICE

. . . Barry Lingham

Point Lillias Excursion,
July 19th 1998

Leaders:
Mark Trengove
Donna Wood

Meet: At Karingal for departure at 9:00 am.

Itinerary: Morning - Investigating the Hovell's Creek estuary at Limeburner's Lagoon

Lunch: (about 12:15 till 1:00pm) at car-park beside boat launching ramp at Avalon Beach. Views over salt works for waders and a walk along the beach.

Afternoon - We will leave here and travel north to the end of the road and walk in to Point Lillias. We will be checking vegetation, birdlife, insects and reptiles, and marine life as we explore the beaches and rocky outcrops. The walking is flat and easy going, but we will cover about 5 kilometres during the afternoon. Bring along a drink and a bite to eat.

This is a good chance to see why so much effort was put in to saving this area from development as a chemical storage facility - Point Lillias has its own unique charm and mystery. If time permits, we will check sections of the saltworks for birdlife.

□

CONSERVATION MEETING INVITATION

A meeting will be held at Madeline Glynn's house on the 9th July at 7.00pm. to discuss conservation issues within our region.

It is open to all members who have an interest in conservation and would like to attend. If you are interested, please phone me on 5248 6332 before the 9th.

Madeline Glynn
Hon. Secretary.

JULY
. . . with Joe Hubbard

Raven On; Beaut Walk 9; Sanguine Orchids; And Also.

Raven On.
6-6-98 Evening. Val called me to the kitchen window to see the 'cockies' (gang-gangs) in the big tree. After some looking we decided they were two Little Ravens. One had its neck arched with beak resting on the branch whilst the other preened it on the neck. This was followed by the preener breaking off nearby twigs and dropping them. Then it was back to preening.

Later, 21-6-98, I watched a raven searching over a cypress tree for sticks suitable for nest-building or renovating. It tested the branches by giving them a tug to see if they would break off easily.

For several years now, ravens have nested in this cypress enabling us to observe these interesting birds regularly.

Not so long ago, near Daylesford, we saw a large bare-branched, spreading tree covered with the black of ravens and the white of cockatoos, all intermingled, which to say the least, was eye-catching. Probably the farmer, whose freshly worked field was nearby, may not have been so appreciative!

Bottom Lines.
- Look for these big, black birds carrying sticks to their large nests.
- Listen for their 'ark, ark' call and watch for their 'display flights' (my guess). Sometimes there seems to be more than two birds involved.
- Catch them playing with a strong northerly as if to enhance their display flights (I know, guessing again!).
- Don't listen to the gossip that gives this bird a bad name.

Beaut Walk 9.
The beginning of the walk takes you through heathland where at this time of the year Common Heath should be very apparent. Here, if you are particularly lucky, you will catch a glimpse of a Southern Emu-wren. As you leave the heathland the track forks - take the right hand track - the other will be your return path. (Look for signs). You are now walking along the rim of Ironbark Basin. Keep an eye out for Banded Greenhoods, Mosquito Orchids and Correa, all track-side. Watch for a well-used track on your left which descends to the Jarosite Mine area in the basin. Just as you turn on to this track look to your right for a great view of Pt Addis. Check for Nodding Greenhoods and run your hands over the deeply-furrowed bark of the aged Ironbarks. That yellow against the grey and black of the Ironbark trunk is a Yellow Robin. If the Ironbarks should be flowering, that means honeyeaters - lots!

From the Jarosite Mine the track climbs up to the fork where you turn right - back to the car.

Bottom Lines.
- Getting There. From Geelong, travel via Torquay. About 9km from Torquay, on the Great Ocean Road, turn left into Jarosite Road (Bell's Beach Southside) and continue to the Southside car park. Check the view! Walk (or drive) back up the hill to find the entrance to the heathland on your left
- More information? *Geelong Bird Report* 1995 pp29-40. 'Birds of the Ironbark Basin' (and a short plant list).
- *Geelong Naturalist* October 1997 p5, 'Basin Magic' by Barry Lingham.
- Allow 2 hours - for lots of stops!

Sanguine Orchids
The Banded Greenhood, *Pterostylus sanguinea*, is one I don't come across very often so I was pleased to find some in the Ironbark Basin. because their lateral sepals and labella were much redder than I had seen before I became a bit excited thinking that I had found a 'new' one. In the poor light of an overcast morning the red really jumped out at me. The wise would say to me - that is what the *sanguinea* is all about - the colour of blood.

This orchid carries several reddish-brown flowers on a stem up to 35cm. The lanceolate leaves are spaced along the flower stalk.

It reminds one of the way the Tall Greenhood grows but the Tall has greenhood green flowers. This can also be found in the Ironbark Basin.

Bottom Lines.
- The 'Banded' flowers from May to August and the 'Tall' June to September.
- Both can be found at Anglesea and the Brisbane Ranges.

And Also.
Flowering - White Correa along the coastal cliffs at Anglesea. White flowers with the correa tube curled back into four petals. Not at all like the Common Correa.
Yellow Gums - Bannockburn and the You Yangs. Magnificent trees. Check out the honeyeaters, (even a Black-chinned could turn up and maybe the Swift Parrots).
Early Nancy - and those apple blossoms scattered over the ground - Sundews. Look for early starters toward the end of July.
Wattles - Sweet and Varnish in the Anglesea area, Varnish in the Ironbark Basin. Sweet in spots around Torquay and Ocean Grove.
Winter - is a great time to get out! Thanks to Vernon Cohen for reminding me that Avalon Beach is good to the birdwatcher. On a recent visit, there were birds galore (numbers and species), sheltering from the chilling wind - 10° in Melbourne. I will not bore you with details except to tell of the hundreds of black cormorants (Little Black?) flying in a long , stretching-forever, wave-clipping line, with the black punctuated by the white of some hangers-on gulls.

□

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
. . . Barry Lingham

July 1998

The Environmental Expo at the Deakin Woolstores campus was a great success due mainly to the efforts of Valda Dedman and Dick Southcombe with the support of many of our members. It was a terrific week and hopefully will become a regular event in the future.

Many of our members are wearing the new Club windcheaters that look great. Many thanks to Valerie Lloyd-Jones for organising the production and delivery of the windcheaters - if you missed out on the first order, be sure to get your order in as soon as possible.

Ray Baverstock has reported that our membership is steadily growing and this means that our Club will be revitalised by the addition of new ideas and talent. Please encourage any friends, neighbours or acquaintances to come along to our meetings to see what we do. Along the same lines, make yourselves known to the newcomers and help them to feel at home.

A welcome new addition to our committee is Alison Watson who has accepted our invitation to be seconded into one of the vacant Ordinary Committee member positions. We are very grateful for Alison's generous offer to help out.

Are there any other people who are prepared to help out either on the committee or as part of our Conservation Sub-committee? We need a few more to assist in spreading the work load and it is certainly a worthwhile and interesting activity to be involved in. See me if you are interested.

□

Another helper . . .

John Bottomley has now taken on the job of entering your observations from the observation report forms.

These are then transmitted to Barry Lingham electronically who compiles a computer disk of various items for the editor. The observations then go into the magazine and into the club database without having to be re-typed..

Thank you John, for helping with this time consuming task.

□

2nd Bannockburn Yellow Gums Winter Flowering Celebration

Bannockburn Flora and Fauna Reserve
Sunday 26th July, 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.

Every winter the indigenous yellow gums of the Geelong region flower, providing a bounty of nectar for honeyeaters, lorikeets and other wildlife. Even though we don't have as many old yellow gums as last year, the Bannockburn Woodlands are still one of the most extensive and biologically intact remnants of this type of vegetation in the region. The reserve is only a short drive from Geelong and is easy to find. Just 2 kms past Bannockburn on the Teesdale Road, turn left into the reserve at the sign.

Members of The Friends of the Bannockburn Bush, Leigh Landcare and the GFNC will be on hand to show you the reserve.

Bring the family and have a picnic under the gum trees. Billy tea and damper will be provided. Please come along and help celebrate these glorious old trees in a friendly, non-confrontational, non-protest, family day.

For further information contact Stuart McCallum, Friends of the Bannockburn Bush, Ph: 52811601

JERRINGOT REPORT
. . . Valda Dedman

An enthusiastic sub-committee has met and come up with a long list of recommendations which will be passed on to the Club Committee.

We are most aware of the need to protect and promote the wetland which we have looked after and improved for more than 25 years. We need more information from the Watersports Task Force about the design of the rowing course and its infrastructure, which will upset the present pattern of water intake and runoff.

We are keen to start working on weed eradication and prepare for a tree planting and sausage sizzle to coincide with a Belmont Common Open Day on 30 August.

Five of us spent an invigorating three hours the following morning making an on-site inspection. The water level was up as was the level of frog noise. A Swamp Harrier stayed around for some time, but the Cattle Egrets and ducks were not unduly perturbed.

We felt privileged to be there, enjoying the natural environment so close to built-up areas. There are many people who are still unaware of this treasure on their doorstep.

The public needs an attractive informative brochure about the area. Regrettably, for a long time we have had no stocks of our original brochure. However, we have grant money to produce a new and better one, and are eager to get started on this project also.

□

BIRD GROUP REPORT
. . . Barry Lingham

June 23rd 1998

This month's speaker was Craig Morley who gave us details of his trip to Canada in the Northern spring of May 1997. Craig's trip took him from Vancouver over the Rocky Mountains to Jasper National park and then on to Toronto and Montreal before returning to Vancouver.

Canada has a population of some 27 million people who are mainly concentrated along a region within 100 Kilometres of the border with the USA. That means that most of this vast country (now the largest country in the world) is very sparsely populated, with many large regions that have no roads.

Craig gave plenty of useful information that would be of value to those who intend to see the birdlife of Canada.

- Beginning at Vancouver, Craig recommended a visit to Stanley Park. This large park (more than 380 hectares) has habitats ranging from wooded hills to lakes. The seawall along one side is several kilometres in length and gives good views of some of the ocean birds.
- To the south lies Rifle Bird Sanctuary. It contains woodlands, marshlands, wetlands and estuaries and is noted for the large range of species that can be seen there.
- Taking the ferry trip from Vancouver to Vancouver Island via the 'Active Passageway' allows sightings of many seagoing birds. They are attracted to the areas where upwelling, nutrient rich water harbours a large range of food species.
- The Canadian Rocky Mountains lie some distance to the west of Vancouver and many smaller coastal ranges must be crossed before they are reached. There are a large number of bird species that can be found in this region.
- In Montreal, Craig recommends a visit to the Biodome which has four special habitats constructed beneath the old Olympic Velodrome.

One of the biggest hassles experienced by many bird watchers visiting in the past was the lack of a single, easy to use field guide that covered the whole of North America. Many people tried to use the two volumes by Pedersen but found this difficult. After some searching, Craig found "All the Birds of Northern America" which was well set out and covered the habitat and range of each species logically.

Some of the species seen by Craig along the sea front included Glaucous-wing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Double-crested Cormorant and Pelagic Cormorant. Redheads and Canvas-backs were both species of sea duck.

Other water birds included the Common Loon and the beautifully plumaged Wood Duck, Eider, Bufflehead, Golden-eye, and Harlequin Duck, American Black-duck, American Wigin, Gatwall and two species of Merganzer . Many of these birds have very striking plumage, but careful observation was required to establish exactly which species was seen. Pre-reading of a good field guide allows the observer to know which aspect of the plumage to check for definitive identification.

Birds of the woodlands included Belted Kingfisher, Golden and Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks and the small raptors called Merlins. A large variety of swallows were seen including the Barn, Tree and Violet-green. Several species of Martin were also seen.

The Pileated Woodpecker was an impressive bird as was the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (yes, they really do exist!)

The Nuthatches act in a similar fashion to our sittellas, moving along the bark of trees. Common birds included the Red-winged Blackbird and Brever's Blackbird. The Robin seen in North America is not related to our robins.

The hardest birds to identify were from the sparrow and warbler groups, with many species of each group being seen. Other birds noted included the Kinglets (Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned), Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco and also the famous Chickadees.

Craig gave us more than a guide to the birds of Canada; his talk focused on the types of planning and observational skills that would allow all of us to be able to identify birds as we travel into unfamiliar regions. For a true birdo, their is nothing more frustrating than not being able to identify that bird species which you have never seen before!

Canada is a huge country with a completely different population of bird species to the southern hemisphere. We thank Craig for giving us an insight into this exciting region.

Speaker for July.

Note change to program
Stephen Ambrose is speaking to us on "What we found from the ABC". This talk was originally scheduled for May, but was delayed due to Stephen's illness. Many of our members were involved in this survey, so it will be interesting. Meeting night is July 28th at 8:00 pm.

Seaview Park

Thanks to Gordon McCarthy, Valda Dedman and Trevor Pescott for volunteering to put together information on the bird life of the area for interpretive signs at Seaview Park.

□

Get well soon . . .

We hope that Vernon Cohen, who has been unwell, has fully recovered and enjoys Trevor Pescott's article on Barn Owls.

It is pertinent to his area, we are in winter and it is as ecclesiastical as I can manage. Also, everyone loves an owl story, except mice.

While browsing through old issues of *Geelong Naturalist* I came upon this little gem of Trevor's and could not resist it, so it has been stored for some months while waiting for an appropriate time.

□

AN UNUSUAL WASP, EVANIIDAE (HYMENOPTERA), FROM THE OCEAN GROVE NATURE RESERVE.

By Dave King

8 Traum Street, Portarlington, 3223.

Introduction

The family Evaniidae is grouped with the superfamily Ichneumonoidae (Riek 1970), from which they differ in respect to their having the gaster attached to the upper part of the propodeum (posterior section of the thorax). They vary in size from 3 to 15mm body length, the subject species being one of the smallest species. Generally black and having the distinctive petiole between the gaster and propodeum. Evaniidae are one of three families in the Evaniodea superfamily of parasitising wasps, their host groups comprise wood boring beetles, solitary bees and wasps and cockroach ootheca (egg case). Members of the Evaniidae appear to specialise in the cockroach as a host. The Evaniidae range over the whole of Australia, particularly in the coastal areas (Riek 1970). They are represented in the U.K. and Europe (Chinery 1974), and in all probability wherever cockroaches may appear.

Description

The subject species, an *Evania sp.* Fig. 1, is one of the smallest of the family Evaniidae. It has a short thickset body or thorax, almost as deep as its length, suggesting it contains strong musculature. Integument is hard and rigid with sculpturing over the whole surface. It is deep black in colour. The petiole is attached high up on the posterior of the thorax, giving it the appearance of a dog-like tail.

The gaster is roughly circular in profile and laterally compressed. Segments are sharply defined, dorsally deep black in colour, blending to a much lighter colour ventrally. Attached to the lower posterior is the ovipositor, relatively short and scimitar shape. Its normal position laying close to the gaster, it can be exerted in order to deposit eggs into the host. All the coxae have a distinct dorsal groove to accommodate the abnormally long trochanter, when the body is lowered in relation to the legs. This is probably adopted when depositing the egg.

References

Chinery, M. (1974), *Insects of Britain & Northern Europe*, Houghton Miffins, . Boston.

New, T.R. (1996), *Name That Insect*, Oxford Univ. Press, Melbourne.

Reik, E.F. (1970), Hymenoptera, in *Insects of Australia*, CSIRO, Melbourne Univ. Press, Melbourne.

□

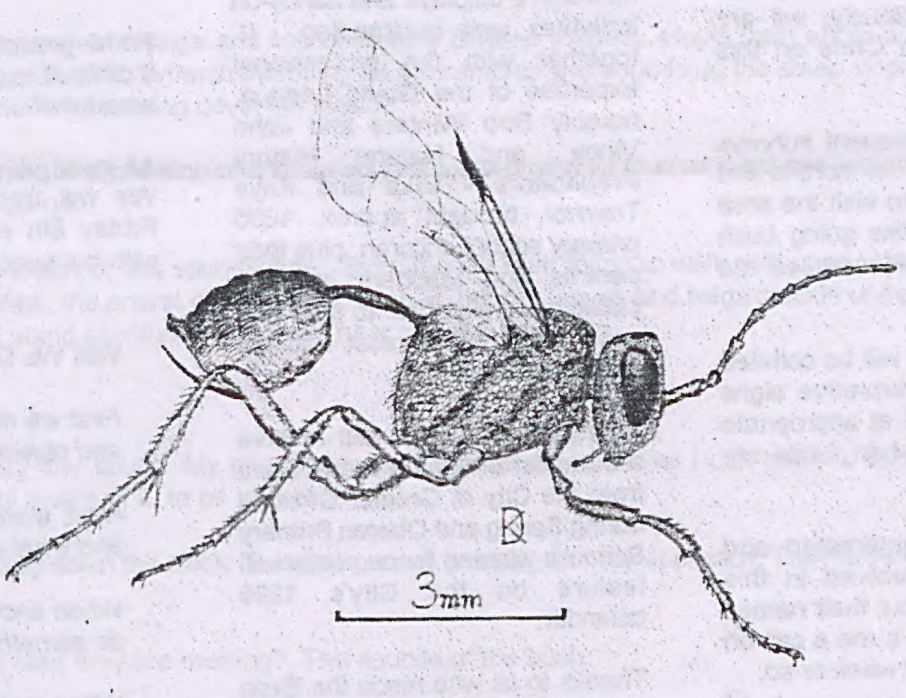

Fig. 1. Evania sp., Evaniidae.

CAMPOUT REPORT
. . . Dick Southcombe

Brisbane Ranges , June 6-8.

Apart from a few showers on Saturday afternoon, we remained dry at our Steiglitz camp site and during our excursions surveying bushland along the walks and tracks that form the Ted Errey Nature Circuit - the purpose of our campout.

The circuit includes Redbeak Track, Outlook Track and Walk, Anakie Gorge Walk, Nelson's Track and hopefully Aqueduct Track. We suggest that Aqueduct Track be included for three reasons:

- It eliminates using a section of Switch Road as part of the circuit, ie. it is safer and the Switch Road crossing becomes obvious from either side.
- Aqueduct Track passes through another type of habitat which is known as a good orchid area, ie. it adds features to the circuit.
- The Aqueduct is of historical importance.

This inclusion has been discussed with Chris Worrall, Chief Ranger of the park and we hope to have an answer soon. Obviously, we are working closely with Chris on this project.

The circuit needs frequent surveys over the next five or six months and members are urged to visit the area whenever they feel like going bush during that period. Please see me for a map of the area.

Information gathered will be collated and prepared for interpretive signs which will be erected at appropriate sites on the circuit when funds are available.

Members who are interested and would like to be involved in this project are asked to put their names on a list tonight or give me a call on 5243 3916 in the next week or so. □

ENVIRONMENT EXPO GEELONG 1998

Dick Southcome for Expo Co-ordinating Committee

The four day Expo concluding on World Environment Day was a success and reportedly of a very high standard.

This achievement was due to many organizations including educators, local, state and federal authorities, industries, photographers, artists, conservationists, environmentalists and naturalists working co-operatively to stage the EXPO and most importantly the people who explained their displays, conducted book readings and supervised hands-on activities. This enabled groups of school children and the visiting public to gain a better understanding and a greater appreciation of the importance of our local natural environment.

The voluntary contribution made by more than thirty of our club's members and many other environmentalists dealing with school fence posters, interactive displays and hands-on activities was outstanding. It, together with the professional expertise of the Gould League, notably Bob Winters and John Vince, and Natural History Preparators - Mike and Kaye Traynor, brought approx. 1000 primary school children, plus their parents and teachers and the public generally, face to face with aspects of nature most had not experienced before.

Participating schools will receive a Compost Bin and a Worm Farm from the City of Greater Geelong during Spring and Oberon Primary School's winning fence poster will feature on the City's 1999 calendar.

Thanks to all who made the Expo a success.

□

Expo Wetland Wrap.
. . . Claire McCormick

The focus group for me was the children. The best thing that happened on Tuesday, June 2nd, was being shown how to sex yabbies. Males have little lumps at the top of the hind legs and females have circles on the third from back legs, not always easy to spot. Sexing them was a favourite with most of the 1000+ kids.

One teacher brought his group back, sat them down and asked them to think about the difference between feral and native animals

.

That evening, Tim Allen was, as always, inspirational when he spoke about our oceans.

The best thing on Wednesday was when Madeline Glynn turned up to help me. She is phenomenal with kids, as is Ade Foster!

One 'little professor' mentioned that there probably were quite a few protozoa in the aquariums!!

A lady in the Adult Literacy class thought that she was looking at germs on the T.V. monitor via the video microscope.

Some groups amalgamated, making it difficult to give them a satisfactory amount of time.

All in all, it was an excellent show. We fell into bed at midnight on Friday 5th exhausted but satisfied with our success.

Will We Do It Again?

First we must define our aims and objectives.

Next, work out what did work and what did not.

When and if we would like to do something similar again?

Who would be prepared to be overall co-ordinator next time?

□

THE SOUNDS OF THE BUSH

By Marilyn Hewish

97 Grey St., Bacchus Marsh. 3340

From long practice at identifying birds by call, I find that I now live in a state of heightened awareness to sound. Wherever I am, whatever I am doing, my brain registers the bird calls around me.

It was a cold overcast day in the Lerderderg Gorge, just coming into the winter season (30/5/98). There was not a breath of wind and the river was almost dry, so there was no rustling of leaves or sound of running water. The birds were also being very quiet, and so my mind started to drift away from bird calls and I became conscious of the other bird sounds and the sounds of the bush.

I hear a soft crunching, tearing sound coming from a eucalypt high over my head. I can't see anything up there but a soft call tells me that a Crested Shrike-tit is busily tearing away and gouging at the bark with its powerful bill to extract insects and grubs.

A sharp clicking sound catches my attention. A White-browed Scrubwren has picked up what looks like an insect pupa about a centimetre long and is bashing it against a stiff tubular piece of Manna Gum bark. The bird stands astride the bark ribbon, and with a rapid swinging motion of its head bangs the pupa repeatedly against each side of the bark. Then it hops over to another piece of bark and repeats the process. There are rocks nearby but it doesn't use them. As I leave I can still hear 'click, click, click', pause, 'click, click, click'. It doesn't sound as if the pupa is getting any softer.

A soft rustling to the side reveals another Scrubwren fossicking in the leaf litter, sliding its bill under the dry leaves and flicking them out to each side.

At one of the pools in the gorge, honeyeaters (Yellow-tufted, Yellow-faced, White-naped) make a soft fluttering and splashing sound as they bathe. They take off in succession from a branch over the water and plunge into the centre of the pool.

A brisk clatter of wings tells me that a Bronzewing has taken off from beside the track.

There is a sudden crash of foliage and branches as a Swamp Wallaby erupts from within a bush where it has been sheltering. Then a rhythmic thumping as it scrambles and bounds up the steep slope, setting off a small landslide of rocks clattering down the hillside.

The tortured groaning and grunting of a koala sounds extra-ordinarily loud as it echoes around between the steep walls of the gorge.

I realise that I am a part of this soundscape. Even though I am trying to walk softly and slowly, the stones in the creek bed clink, the gravel on the path crunches, the dry leaves and twigs crackle under my boots. It is so quiet that if I stand absolutely still, I can hear my own breathing.

I hold my breath.

I am alert for every tiny sound. My consciousness expands out as far as I can hear, to take in the whole scene, to be totally aware of it, to be part of it.

I hear voices coming down the track. Two walkers are chatting as they approach. They are involved in their conversation.

Don't they realise what they are missing? The sounds of the bush.

□

BIRD OF THE MONTH
. . . Valda Dedman

Grey Fantail

Name Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fulginosa*

Description Small animated bird, grey above with white eyebrow, ear mark, wing bar, throat. Dark breastband; underparts white, fawn or buffish. Constantly fans and moves tail, showing outer white shafts.

Length 14-17 cm.

Voice Tinny, reeling song.

Food Insects caught on the wing.in a tumbling chase, or gleaned.

Habitat Scrub, forest, open woodland, parkland, gardens.

Range Australia wide, except for arid W.A. Five distinct races, Local race is *alisteri,* with seasonal migrants from Tasmanian race *albiscapa,* which is darker with a broader breastband.

Geelong Common and widespread, in woodland and forest, Eastern Park, gardens.

Nest Distinctive.Long ragged tail on goblet, built and lined with soft buff-coloured grasses, shredded bark and plant fibre, bound and uniformly coated with grey spiders' web.

*****

In the autumn and winter months this friendly little bird visits Geelong gardens, generally singly, occasionally in pairs or small flocks. (Margaret Cameron saw 30 on 12th April, 1981). It has been noted as early as January, but is usually observed from the beginning of April until October, with most records in those two months.

This corresponds to a north-south migration, and a general. movement into more open areas. Some birds cross Bass Strait. Trevor Pescott relates in *Birds of Geelong* that over Easter 1982 Owen Yateman saw several Grey Fantails pass his boat ten kilometres off Torquay. They were flying towards land from the south-east. One even landed on a cray-pot on board his boat.

Closer observation of our Geelong birds' plumage might reveal the proportion of local residents to Tasmanian visitors. An albino bird was seen in 1992 in the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Grey Fantails have long been known to breed in Eastern Park, but I have no records of them nesting in our suburban gardens, although I feel sure they must do so on occasion, in spite of cats and human intrusion.

In the *Geelong Naturalist* of November 1971 there is an interesting account of fantails nesting in a cotoneaster bush, two feet outside a dining-room window, in Stafford Crescent, Ballarat. Mr John Coutts wrote:

> "First nesting movements were noticed on 6th October. Nest built entirely of cobwebs, both birds helped in construction of a nest the size of a sherry glass. Time to build the nest was 3 weeks, and the three eggs took 20 days to hatch. During the high winds and rains of November, both parents sat on the nest together to keep the chicks in. My opinion was that the nest was far too small for the three babies it supported.
>
> As the result of one violent storm, two young ones were blown out one night and were found dead under the bush the next morning. They were then at the pin-feather stage. At this stage the parents were feeding the chicks mainly blowflies but also other insects.
>
> The one survivor was successfully reared and remained with the parents in the vicinity of the nest for two weeks. The youngster was chased away and the parents set about adding half an inch of fresh material to the top of the nest and began nesting for a second time.
>
> At the moment of writing the second lot of chicks are out and again being fed by both birds.
>
> They defend their area with great courage from silvereyes and goldfinches and even attacking blackbirds. When our dog strays nearby for too long, they will dive him continuously, chattering with a scissor like sound made with the beak and not from the throat."

Later a third nest was constructed, but 15 feet up in a huge walnut tree.

Jack Wheeler commented in the same article that, "of the dozens of nests I have examined throughout Australia, none would vary in diameter any more than an eighth of an inch."

Grey Fantails are normally inquisitive and confiding birds, easily called closer (try making kissing noises!). They have been known to land on a person's shoulders and even on a gun barrel that was about to be fired.

Elizabeth Cameron, in a study made in northeastern N.S.W., found that Grey Fantails take insects ranging from 5mm in size to small moths and beetles. They need well-lit surfaces of sparse foliage from the ground to the treetops. Searching through foliage and small branches, they use up to twenty perches a minute, disturbing concealed prey with their spinning and wing-flashing. The cage of bristles around the bird's bill seems to act as a funnel for tiny insects.

In the bush, you often meet Cranky Fan, the bird with a voice like a tiny rusty violin. Last week, in the rain, one was darting in and out of a willow tree by the Moorabool River at Fyansford. Next week you might see one in your garden.

□

THE CASE OF THE PSYCHID MOTH

By Ade Foster

8 Hazel Street, Belmont, 3216.

At the last meeting Leila Ramsay brought along a case-moth cocoon, that curious structure of silk and twigs with which we are all familiar. I offered to try and identify the species responsible and so began a very interesting learning experience. Case moths and Bag moths belong to the family *Psychidae,* which has about 145 species recognised in Australia, most from our southern half of the continent. The case or bag is not strictly a cocoon, but serves as a mobile shelter for the caterpillar.

Young caterpillars lower themselves on strands of silk and are quickly borne away on wind currents to colonise a new area. They build a small shelter of silk and decorate it with various plant materials or bits of rubbish. As the larvae grows it enlarges the front end of the case and decorates it with various materials, usually diagnostic of the species. The larvae pushes its head through this aperture to feed, having first attached the case to a twig with silk. When it is ready to move on it cuts the silk tie and takes the case with it to the new feeding position. Waste matter is ejected through a smaller opening at the back.

When the larvae is ready to shed its skin for the next instar, it attaches the case firmly to a twig, then closes the feeding aperture with silk. As this ecdysis occurs inside the case, it is not certain how many instars are involved, but by counting the number of times the caterpillar makes firm its home, the general consensus is between twelve and twenty. When mature the larvae attaches the end of the case very firmly and spins a cocoon within, usually with huge amounts of silk.

The two subfamilies, *Taleporiinae* and *Psychinae* differ considerably in their adult stages. The males of both are fully flighted, but in *Taleporiinae* the females have reduced wings and sit on the outside of the case awaiting a male to mate with. In *Psychinae* all the females are completely wingless and remain in the case, copulation taking place through the opening in the silk. Eggs are laid on or in the case, and larvae feed variously on lichens, herbs, shrubs, trees and, in some cases, the bodies of dead insects.

The case Leila found was cylindrical, about 40 mm long, with twigs on even lengths and one longer one, attached with silk around its perimeter belonged the genus *Clania*, probably *C. ignobilis*, a common species found from Queensland through to Tasmania and South Australia. Larvae feed exclusively on eucalyptus, sometimes in such numbers on young trees that they appear like ornaments on a Christmas tree.

I have had two specimens recently which I have tried unsuccessfully to rear to adults. The first, *Oiketicus elongatus*, is a striking case liberally sprinkled with small twigs, and was about 120 mm long when it escaped. The other was *Hyalarcta nigrescens*, which makes a tear shaped case unadorned with plant matter. I had this one for over six weeks, when unfortunately it fell into the bottle used to keep its eucalyptus plant food fresh, and drowned!

References:

Common, I.F.B. *Moths of Australia* , Melbourne University Press 1990
D'Abrera, Bernard. *Moths of Australia*, Lansdowne Press 1974

□

BIO-DIVERSITY NOTES
. . . Ade Foster

Excursion 7/6/98
Serendip Sanctuary

As a follow-on to our hands-on display at the Environment Expo, the Bio-diversity group's scheduled field excursion was to Serendip Sanctuary. In consultation with Parks Victoria Ranger, Peter Hill, we conducted a joint Bio-Diversity Day which was open to the public. Serendip supplied their activities room complete with an exceptional video microscope, several stereo microscopes, yabby tanks and herpetarium. Dennis, Claire and myself, armed with a big bucketful of invertebrates from Jerringot and the dams at Serendip, and an even bigger bucketful of enthusiasm, answered the many and varied questions from a steady stream of very interested visitors. Because of the weather and the time of year we were not expecting huge numbers, either of visitors or invertebrates, but we were pleasantly surprised on both counts.

One notable find was several tiny green insects which looked for all the world like aphids. The unusual thing was that they were in a totally aquatic environment, walking slowly along plant matter completely submerged and seemingly in their element. We are investigating. Serendip are keen for a bigger and better promoted Bio-Diversity Day in the warmer weather of late spring/early summer. We will keep you posted.

Meeting 24/6/98
Fungi

Just three very hardy souls braved the cold, wet and windy night to spend an entertaining evening examining fungi. With heaters on high and woollen caps pulled low, we used books, keys, microscopes and experience to identify four of the eight or so species I had been able to find that afternoon.

Agaricus campestris The Field Mushroom Just a few very new ones were found along the Stan Lewis Walk. They were carefully examined to ascertain that they were indeed *A. campestris* and not *A. xanthoderma*, the notorious Yellow Staining Mushroom. Dennis braved our diagnosis by eating one raw.

Lactarius deliciosus
The Saffron Milk Cap
A large number were found under some pine trees where I always find *Boletus*. Large, handsome mushrooms, they are a bright orange/yellow, with blotches of darker colour, especially on the stout stems. The yellow gills take on a bright green colour when mature. Could this be the source of the expression 'green around the gills'? When damaged or broken the flesh exudes copious amounts of bright yellow juice. They are reportedly edible, but need to be cooked with lemon juice to tenderise them.

Coprinus comatus
The Shaggy Cap
These were the commonest fungi I could find, though most of them seemed to be spent and would have been better a week ago. The heads are long and cylindrical, the surface breaking down to give the appearance of shaggy hair. They are found in pastures, near rotting wood and on manure piles. They mature very quickly and the gills change from white to black and liquefy, leaving a stem covered with a gooey black mess. Those in the know tell me they are very good eating, I'll take their word for it!

Mycena subgalericulata
Common name?
These were found growing in very dense colonies on some new mulch along the Stan Lewis walk. They tend to grow on rotting timber and most bush-walkers will have seen them. The heads are conical, quite tall and sooty grey, brown, olive or even grey/white. The stems are greyish, solid and appear polished. The gills change from white to a pinky grey as the fungus matures.

Amanita muscaria
The Fly Agaric We didn't have a specimen of this beautiful fungus, (the red and white one that gnomes sit on) but Ron Mole showed me a crop on the front lawn of a house in North Valley Road a month ago. *A. muscaria* is normally associated with pine trees but there were only birch trees in the area. They have not appeared there before, and the owner of the house had not imported any soil or mulch recently. I sent a record to the Fungimap people, and received this reply from Dr. Tom May.

"This fungus grows with a variety of exotic trees, often pine, but also birch. *Amanita* is a mycorrhizal fungus - which forms a partnership (mutualism) with these trees. It seems that the fungi only come up once the tree is mature, maybe not until the tree is 20-30 years old.

Amanita muscaria is quite common in pine forests around the Otways (eg Barramunga area, Lorne and south of Turton's Track) but the only other records so far from the Geelong area are from Serendip Sanctuary - perhaps because it is drier, we are not sure. "

Anybody else seen one recently?

References:
J.H. Willis *Victorian Mushrooms and Toadstools* FNCV.
B. Fuhrer *Field Companion to the Fungi of Australia* FNCV

Next Meeting 22nd July is a Members Night, where each member is asked to bring along a specimen(s) of particular interest to them, and tell us a little about it. Anyone who would like to come along is more than welcome.

Next Excursion, Sunday, July 12th, we will be walking Harrison's Track, at Gum Flat, near Anglesea. Meet at the junction of Anglesea and Forest Roads at 9.00 am.

August Excursion, Sunday 9th will be to Teesdale Swamp, Chinaman's Lagoon. Apparently the land is for sale and we have been asked to have a look at it and report on its value as a wetland. We will meet at Kardinia International College at 9.00 am. and drive from there to Teesdale.

□

WINTER NESTING OF BARN OWLS

By Trevor Pescott

4 Victoria Terrace, Belmont, 3216.

An extract from *Geelong Naturalist,* Vol 2 No 3, 1974, Page 61.

The Barn Owl *Tyto alba,* is a cosmopolitan species which is endeared to the people of the more intensively farmed areas of Europe as a major predator on the mice and rats which frequent the farm outbuildings.

This food supply for the owls draws them to the farming districts, but here hollow areas are scarce and the birds are obliged to make use of farm buildings as nesting and roosting sites.

In Australia the situation is not too pronounced, but even here the Barn Owl will not hesitate to enter farm buildings if they provide the best cover available.

Some years ago, during an influx of Barn Owls to the Geelong district, a lady living in a first floor flat in Geelong West was awakened by a noise in her bedroom; to her surprise when she turned on the light, she found a Barn Owl perched on her dressing table.

It had come in through a partly open window.

Nesting of Barn Owls around Geelong is not often noted, although there is the record of a pair which built inside the screen of the Moolap Drive-in Theatre not long after it had been built.

During the summer of 1973-74, the local residents were disturbed by the nocturnal twitterings of Barn Owls near the Lara Church of England.

On August 7th, 1974, Mr Rooke who lives opposite the Church found a Barn Owl. alive but in an emaciated condition; nearby was another dead and on the floor of the bell tower, there were two more dead.

These latter two, and a third still alive, roosting in the top of the tower, were immature birds with incompletely formed wing and tail feathers, and patches of down still intermingled with the new feathers.

These birds had nested in mid-winter, an extraordinary event considering Barn Owls' sensitivity to cold weather.

□

Future issues . . .

If nothing else, we are a diversified group. Last Month, Joe Hubbard was advocating the virtues of following our interest 'au natural'. Now, Marilyn Hewish is suggesting that we need "thermal singlet, thermal spencer and leggings, shirt, fleecy sweater and trousers, woollen jumper, rain jacket and pants, thermal hat, gloves and two pairs of socks, one pair thermal and one wool". What can she be up to? I will make sure that you find out next month while the winter gales of August are upon us.

Valda Dedman cannot remember the events of a night in November 1905 when the GFNC decided what would be on its first badge. But she has done some research, in fact a huge amount of research, to bring you a full article on it. You may think you know what it is, but Valda has a knack of surprising us.

□

LIBRARY NOTES
. . . Betty Moore

Wingspan June 1998 -
Articles include: Details of the new Australian Bird Atlas. 1st of August 1998 marks its beginning.

"A Win for Birds" discusses the clean-up of Sydney's degraded Homebush Bay in preparation for the 2000 Olympic Games.

"Bower Power" by Clifford and Dawn Frith is a fascinating article about Bower birds. There are nineteen species of which eight are peculiar to Australia, nine to New Guinea and two occur in both areas. Did you know that there are four basic sub-types of bowers? - court, mat, maypoles and avenues.

The smallest Bower Bird the Golden from the wet tropics, builds the largest bower, towers of sticks which have been known to reach three metres in height. Males are the builders and they have a hard time erecting and decorating their bowers, defending them from theft by other males and giving impressive courtship displays. The females build the nest, lay and hatch the eggs and raise their young unaided by the father of their offspring.

The Bird Observer June 1998 "Goulds Petrel versus the Rabbit" by John K. Layton - a Cabbage Tree Island environmental success story. "Screaming woman bird" by Barrie Chaffer, discusses whether or not ornithologists have been barking up the wrong tree.

"Is Land for Wildlife under threat?" by Ken Simpson BOCA president. The ONR&E is carrying out a review - part of the terms of reference is to investigate "the opportunities, benefits and disadvantages of the linking of existing programs relating to conservation on private land including Land for Wildlife, the various programs operated by the Trust for Nature and other programs operated or supported by the Department". Although the report was due in November 1997, when BOAC (who instigated Land for Wildlife program with the Dept. in 1981), requested information under the Freedom of Information Act, they were refused on the grounds that the document was still in draft form.

Victorian Landcare Issue 8 covers Landcare activities in such areas as Creswick, Bendigo, Millewa-Carwarp, Whitehead's Creek, Gunbower, Campaspe. Activities include tree planting kangaroo fencing, combating salinity and erosion and deer farming.

The Library has a new magazine this month - GEO Australasia. Most people are no doubt familiar with this magazine's set-up. One article that stands out is "Canyons of the Blue Mountains", part of a series profiling Australia's outstanding national parks. The photography is really spectacular.

□

A letter to the editor . . .
Trevor Pescott

I was interested in Joe Hubbard's report of a photograph of field naturalists 'skinny dipping' at the prom (G.N. 34-2, page 11), partly because of a letter I received shortly after reading it.

The letter was from another local group, seeking support for a museum proposal and it was addressed to the 'Field Naturists Association of Geelong'.

I cannot help wondering whether it was a typing gremlin, sheer ignorance . . . or had the sender also seen the age photo?

As to the winter solstice - if Joe had joined the June excursion, he too would have been able to participate in a refreshing dip, but in the
rain.
rain.
rain
and more rain,
suitably garlanded in a Driza-bone or japara if not noonflowers.

□

EXCURSION REPORT
. . . Trevor Pescott

The Otways, June 21, 1998.

The June excursion usually corresponds closely with the winter solstice, and this year we celebrated with an aquatic theme!

Shortly after leaving Karingal we encountered rain and by the time we reached Wurdi Boluc it was pouring down - still we managed to see some water-birds on the shallow margins. Hoary-headed Grebes, Grey Teal, Australian Shoveler and Black Swan were there, while on the shore were Red-capped Plovers, Great Egret and over-wintering Curlew Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints, but just a few of each.

We dripped back to the vehicles and drove on to Wurdale Road to inspect a Yarra Gum or two. then back to Cape Otway Road. Our sedate drive took us through Deans Marsh and on to West Barwon Reservoir which is at its lowest level for about 16 years.

An early lunch under a picnic shelter while the rain fell, and sights of a beautiful male Flame Robin, helped lift our spirits, and, as it happened, the rain clouds.

Thoughts of abandoning our trip evaporated and we sloshed our way up recently-graded Kaanglang Road, then down the new track into the Lake Elizabeth car park.

While we meandered up the track into the lake, looking at Red-browed Finches and colourful toadstools, we disturbed a wallaby that was feeding on the grassy flat below.

At the lake, all, eyes, binoculared or not, scanned the surface for 'platy', not 'nessy', but Eurasian Coots and a few other avian odds-and -ends were all we could see. We walked to the top of the lake, and some more observant than others eventually saw an elusive Platypus, while Little Pied and Great Cormorant, Chestnut Teal and Dusky Moorhen were noted.

We were back to the car park in time for a quick cuppa before the rain began to fall again.

Well, what would the Otways be without some precipitation?

□

ENVIRONMENT 'EXPO 1998

With Claire McCormick

GREAT FUN WAS HAD BY ALL

Children, children everywhere, having the greatest of fun along with their 'responsible' adult.

Little groups, big groups, all wanting to find bugs, beetles, spiders or anything that moved. Sometimes planting up Poa was their fancy.

Playing 'I spy' with binoculars and the telescope, searching in the natural bush setting for tiny birds that older eyes didn't even know were there!

What are environmental weeds and how can we get rid of them? Let's check out the On Line Computer!
Up the stairs for a walk by the Barwon River on a warm day. What sort of plants did the aboriginal people eat and use? Reeds were made into baskets. Tubers from water ribbons were roasted in the fire.

Around the corner were some yummy yabbies. Was it a girl or a boy? As we are at the top of the food chain it's a good idea to only take boy yabbies, leaving the girls to breed. I am told that only one boy is needed for 300 girls!

Tiny pigmy perch from Thompsons Creek. Fat gudgeon and skinny galaxid minnows from Lake Modewarre who didn't mind being in fresh pond water instead of blue green algae! Plenty of invertebrates to eat.

Skulls and bones? Dissolved flesh fed the protozoa that fed the daphnia that fed the fish. Wow! You mean we swim in water with all of those animals? Were they really in our drinking water before it was purified? A good diversity means that they are important indicators of the health of our wetlands.

A penguin to stroke, feathers so soft! Insects and butterflies, just a sample of the rich food source for the hundreds of birds that live or holiday in Geelong.
Yellow ribbons for the Yellow Gums lost from that tiny spot of green amongst the brown paddocks on the aerial photograph.

Is the rowing course going to be THAT big?

So many different types of wonderful orchids grow in the Australian bush! And all of these other plants, I wish I could have a garden with them.

There are so many different sea shells, all from the beaches around the Geelong region. A paper nautilus that was the egg case from its owner. Some shells still have barbs that are poisonous.

Under one microscope was an enormous Huntsman spider, another had tiny lerp insects that live under their sugar coated roof. (Good bush tucker.)

Time for a story before heading upstairs to the art show.

What a lot of shipwrecks happened on our coast! So many different treasures that tell a story. Worms? Hundreds and thousands? The second were made of sugar and look quite different under the video microscope. And yes, we need worms to compost our rubbish along with all of the other Mini Beasts and Spineless Wonders (otherwise known as invertebrates) that convert rubbish into excellent fertilizer.

Two hours really wasn't enough time to see it all properly. (Some of us didn't see it all even though we were there for five days!)

□

Did you know?

. . . Valda Dedman

...that in 1888 the Geelong council rejected an application from the Barwon Amateur Racing Club to hold race meetings and other amusements on Belmont Common. *Geelong Advertiser, 28th May 1988.*

...that in 1857 in "the beautiful paddocks near the Barwon," the "grass was blue as heaven with a small lobelia elegantly trailing on the ground"
Victorian Agricultural and Horticultural Gazette (reprinted in Geelong Naturalist, Vol. 28 No. 2)

Which lobelia might this have been - *L. alata,(* Angled Lobelia), or *L. pratioides* (Poison Lobelia)?

Other plants mentioned were *Burchardia umbellata* (Milkmaids), *Stylidium* [*graminifolium?*] (Grass Trigger-plant), *Brunonia australis* (Blue Pincushion), *Pimelia* [*glauca?*] (Riceflower), *Drosera* [*peltata?*] (Tall Sundew).

We must endeavour to reintroduce these species back to the "paddocks beside the Barwon". We could start with plantings at Jerringot, as part of the project for which we have received a grant of $1750 from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to enhance snipe habitat and upgrade our Jerringot brochure.

□

Those observations . . .

Please help our new observation recorder, John Bottomley and the editor of the *Geelong Bird Report,* Marilyn Hewish, by making sure that every part of the form is completed.

The location should give a future researcher or interested person an idea of the area. If your location would be difficult for someone outside the region to find, please make it as clear as possible eg, Sheepwash (Barwon Heads).

A favourite location is 'Barwon River' which seems clear enough, but does that mean the Otways or Barwon Heads?

□

DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

THIS WE KNOW

We are the earth. through the plants and animals that nourish us.
We are the rains and the oceans that flow through our veins.
We are the breath of the forest of the land, and the plants of the sea.
We are the human animals, related to all other life as descendants of the firstborn cell.
We share a common history, written in our genes.
We share a common present, filled with uncertainty.
And we share a common future, as yet untold.

We humans are but one of thirty million species
weaving the thin layer of life enveloping the world.
The stability of communities of living things depends upon this diversity.
Linked in that web, we are interconnected -
using , cleansing, sharing and replenishing the fundamental elements of life.
Our home, planet Earth, is finite; all life shares its resources and the energy from the sun,
and therefore has limits to growth.
For the first time, we have touched those limits.
When we compromise the air, the water, the soil and the variety of life,
we steal from the endless future to serve the fleeting present.

We may deny these things, but we cannot change them.

THIS WE BELIEVE

Humans have become so numerous and our tools so powerful
that we have driven fellow creatures to extinction, dammed the great rivers,
torn down ancient forests, poisoned the earth, rain and wind, and ripped great holes in the sky.
Our science has brought pain as well as joy; our comfort is paid for by the suffering of millions.
We are learning from our mistakes, we are mourning our vanishing kin,
and we now build a new politics of hope.
We respect and uphold the absolute need for clean air, water and soil.
We see that economic activities that benefit the few while shrinking the inheritance of many are wrong.
And since environmental degradation erodes biological capital forever,
full ecological and social cost must enter all equations of development.
We are one brief generation in the long march of time; the future is not ours to erase.
So where knowledge is limited, we will remember all those who will walk after us,
and err on the side of caution.

THIS WE RESOLVE

All this that we know and believe must now become the foundation of the way we live.

At this turning point in our relationship with Earth,
we work for an evolution: from dependence to partnership;
from fragmentation to connection; from insecurity,
to interdependence.

I found the above statement at the Gondwanaland Wildlife Sanctuary, Southbank ,Brisbane, Qld. while on holiday last year and was so moved by it that I bought a copy. Ade Foster kindly sent E-mails to the David Suzuki Foundation, (finding solutions@davidsuzuki.org), Suite 219, 2211 West 4th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6K 452 requesting permission for it to be published in our magazine. This was granted by Dawna Henderson, Office Manager .

I hope you too, will feel as moved by it as I!

Claire McCormick
4 White Street, Belmont, 3216

□

NOTES ON THE OBSERVATIONS

. . . Barry Lingham

Point Lonsdale continues to provide a good viewing spot for the ocean birds, especially after a few days of strong southerly winds. Marilyn noted albatross and shearwaters plus an Arctic Jaeger, similar records to those from Craig Morley last month.

Some interesting duck sightings were seen on the Bellarine peninsular; Blue-bills and a Pink-ear at the Portarlington Sewerage Works and large numbers of Musk Duck on Swan Bay. The winter wader count also produced some interesting sightings. A large number of Double-banded Plover had congregated on the shores of Swan Bay, with some in breeding plumage - these travellers from New Zealand will head back home in the spring. A Terek Sandpiper was recorded at Lake Connewarre - this may be the same bird seen there last summer.

OBP's have been noted in reasonable numbers at Lake Connewarre (27 by GT) after very few were seen in 1997. Gordon McCarthy saw a smaller flock in the swamp vegetation near Reedy Lake. Few, if any, records of OBP's have been made at this spot - is it due to few birdos visiting or have the OBP's been attracted to a new food source as the vegetation grows after Reedy Lake was dry for some time? It was of interest that all sightings of OBP's and Blue-winged Parrots were in habitat that also had flocks of Goldfinches feeding. Are the finches a competitor for the same food or is this coincidental? Reports of flocks of finches feeding in wetland vegetation would be useful.

Joan and Vernon Cohen had a 'magic moment' when they visited Avalon Beach recently and saw a wide variety of species in the late afternoon. Unfortunately Vernon has not been well lately and had to cut short a holiday, but the beauty of the area and especially the calling of a Calamanthus (Striated Fieldwren) helped to lift his spirits. Why not visit this isolated spot yourself (only about 15 minutes drive from Geelong) or come along on the July Club excursion to Point Lillias to enjoy the sights.

□

BIRD OBSERVATION REPORTS June 1998

-- compiled by Barry Lingham and John Bottomley.

Observations were submitted by Marilyn Hewish (MHe), Rohan Bugg (RBu), Ray Baverstock (RBa), Ray Beckworth (RBe), Gordon McCarthy (GMC), Valda Dedman (VWD). Craig Morley (CM), Graeme Tribe (GT), Peter Bright (PB), Barry Lingham (BL), Graeme Possingham (GP), Joe Hubbard (JH), Tim Tarr (TT), Joan & Vernon Cohen (J&VC)

Australasian Grebe	5	4-May-98	Barwon River, Newtown	Rba
Black Browed Albatross	15+	21-Jun-98	Pt. Lonsdale. In close over the Rip in a gale.	MHe/BSt
	1	8-Jun-98	Pt.Lonsdale.	CM
Fluttering Shearwater	100	21-Jun-98	Pt. Lonsdale. Flying East-West at 5pm.	MHE/BSt
Australian Gannet	2	12-Jun-98	Werribee South	RBu
Pacific Heron	1	17-Jun-98	Blackgate Road west of Gazepore Road	RBe
Pink Eared Duck	1	No date	Portarlington Sewage ponds	PB
Blue Billed Duck	8	No date	Portarlington Sewage ponds	PB
Musk Duck	200+	21-Jun-98	West Swan Bay	BL/GP
Grey Goshawk (white morph)	1	12-Jun-98	Newtown. Seen this time for several years.	JH
Wedge-tailed Eagle	1	21-Jun-98	West Swan Bay	BL/GP
	2	17-Jun-98	Blackgate Road West of Torquay Road	RBe
Little Eagle	1	10-Jun-98	Newtown	JH
	1	19-Jun-98	Lara	RBe
	1	13-Apr-98	Eastern Park	GM

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

Australian Hobby	1	21-Jun-98	Ocean Grove. Flying over.	PB
	1	3-Jun-98	Moorabool and Kilgour	CM
	1	7-Jun-98	Newtown	CM
	1	14-Jun-98	Hospital Lakes	BL
Double Banded Plover	420	21-Jun-98	West Swan Bay	BL/GP
Red-necked Avocet	400	12-Jun-98	Moolap Salt Works	GM
Banded Stilt	30	12-Jun-98	Moolap Salt Works	GM
Arctic Jaeger	1	21-Jun-98	Pt. Lonsdale	MHe/BSt
Silver Gull	240	21-Jun-98	Moolap Saltworks. Paired up. Displaying and arranging nest material.	MHe/BSt
Brush Bronzewing	2	19-Jun-98	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve	PB
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo	19	2-Jun-98	St.Leonards	PB
	100+	10-Jun-98	St.Leonards	PB
	75	21-Jun-98	East Geelong. Flew to tree in Eastern Park.	MHe/BSt
	37	18-Jun-98	South Geelong	VWD
	15+	13-Jun-98	Highton	RBa
	20+	20-Jun-98	Highton	RBa
	12+	28-May-98	Highton	RBa
	80+	31-May-98	Queens Park	TT
	70+	1-Jun-98	Newtown. Geelong College Prep.School	TT
	10+	15-Jun-98	Eastern Park	CM/KP
	35+	15-Jun-98	Eastern Park	CM/KP
Swift Parrot	1	18-Jun-98	Chirnside Park, Werribee River	RBu
	1	12-Jun-98	Bungey's Hole, Werribee	RBu
Blue Winged Parrot	2	9-Jun-98	Mouth of Werribee River	RBu
	25	21-Jun-98	West Swan Bay	BL/GP
	40	20-Jun-98	Lake Connewarre. Competing for sarcacornia with Goldfinch	GT
Orange Bellied Parrot	27	20-Jun-98	Lake Connewarre on island in river mouth	GT
	8	17-Jun-98	Reedy Lake. End of Moolap Station Road, Feeding on Atriplex.	GMc
Boobook Owl	1	9-Jun-98	Cobbledick's Ford Road, Werribee	RBu
Laughing Kookaburra	2	28-May-98	Barwon River, Newtown	Rba
Song Thrush	1	2-Jun-98	Newtown	JH
Pink Robin	1	9-Jun-98	Barwon River	GM
Flame Robin	8	31-May-98	Avalon Beach	JC/VC
	1	16-Jun-98	Heathdale Wetland, Werribee	RBu
Golden Whistler	1	17-May-98	Lara. Regular garden visitor.	JC/VC
Calamanthus	2	7-Jun-98	Avalon Beach	JC/VC
White throated Treecreeper	2	8-Jun-98	Brisbane Ranges NP. With six Brown treecreepers	JH
Brown Treecreeper	6	8-Jun-98	Brisbane Ranges NP. With two White-throated Treecreepers	JH
Little Wattlebird	2	9-Jun-98	Werribee South Caravan Park	RBu
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater	6	28-May-98	Clifton Springs	Jhe
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	40+	1-Jun-98	Newtown in am. Two more flocks of 20+ and 10+ in pm.	JH
Singing Honey Eater	1	9-Jun-98	Werribee South foreshore	RBu
	1	16-Jun-98	Highton	RBa
	2	8-Jun-98	Pt .Lonsdale lighthouse	CM
New Holland Honey Eater	2	9&20-6-98	Newtown. Nest building.	JH
Eastern Spinebill	1	11-Jun-98	Bungeys Hole, Werribee	RBu
	1	8-Jun-98	Pt.Lonsdale lighthouse.	CM
Goldfinch	50+	21-Jun-98	West Swan Bay. Competing for food with Blue-winged Parrots	BL/GP
	50+	20-Jun-98	Lake Connewarre. Competing for sarcacornia with Blue-winged Parrots	GT
Pied Currawong	10+	14-Apr-98	Eastern Park. At least eight young	CM
Little Raven	2	6-Jun-98	Newtown. Gathering sticks and preening,	JH
	2	20-Jun-98	Newtown. Gathering sticks	JH

□

GFNC OFFICE BEARERS (1998-1999)

President	Barry Lingham	5255 4291
Vice-President	Vacant	
Secretary	Madeline Glynn	5248 6332
Treasurer	Ray Baverstock	5243 7025
Minute Secretary	Donna Wood	5221 2956
Immediate Past President	Dick Southcombe	5243 3916
Committee Member	Peter Hackett	5229 4642
" "	Diana Primrose	5250 1811
" "	Graeme Tribe	5255 2302
" "	Alison Watson	5229 3488
" "	Vacant	
Honorary Librarian	Betty Moore	5288 7220
Editor	Alban Lloyd-Jones	5243 3704

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CONVENERS and GEELONG BIRD REPORT EDITOR

Bio-diversity Group	Ade Foster	5243 9478
Bird Group	Barry Lingham	5255 4291
Plant Group	Dick Southcombe	5243 3916

Geelong Bird Report — Marilyn Hewish (Pri) 03 5367 3196 (Bus) 03 9344 5715

DISCLAIMER

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article. 'Geelong Naturalist' may be quoted without permission provided that acknowledgement of the club and the author is made.

Geelong Field Naturalists Club Inc.

ROSTERS

	LIBRARY	SUPPER	HALL	MAILING
JUL	Lorraine Preston	Polly Cutcliffe Mary Hamilton	Bob Preston Ron Mole	Bew Morwood
AUG	Valerie Lloyd-Jones	Margery Rix Penny Smith	Ian Hunt Rob Beardsley	Roma Connors

Meetings start at 8.00 pm at:
Karingal Community Centre, Cornner McKillop and Humble Streets, East Geelong.
Use the Humble Street entrance.

Plant drawings are reproduced from *Wildflower Diary* Winifred Waddell Vic 1976.
Illustrator, Elizabeth Cochrane.

Printed by Ken Jenkin.

GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB Inc.
PO Box 1047
Geelong Vic 3220

GEELONG NATURALIST

GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC
PO BOX 1047, GEELONG, VIC. 3220
PRINT POST APPROVED
PP 333139 / 00016

SURFACE MAIL

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

The Librarian
Museum of Vic Library
285 Russell Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

MV674